



Venice of America

City of Fort Lauderdale - Glossary

Accrual Basis	The basis of accounting under which transactions are recognized when they occur, regardless of when related cash is actually received or spent.
Ad Valorem Taxes	Property taxes calculated as a percentage of the value of real or personal property. The percentage is expressed in mills (thousandths of dollars).
Appropriation	The City Commission's legal authorization for the City to make expenditures and incur obligations.
Assessed Value	The County Property Appraiser's estimation of the Fair Market Value of real estate or other property. This valuation is used to determine taxes levied upon the property.
Budget	A statement of the City's financial position for a specific period of time (fiscal year) based on estimates of expenditures during the period and proposals for financing them. Also, the amount of money available, required, or assigned for a particular purpose.
Budget Advisory Board	A ten-member board appointed by the City Commission to provide recommendations about the City's operating budget.
Capital Outlay	Outlays for the acquisition of or addition to fixed assets which are durable in nature and cost at least \$1,000. Such outlays are charged as expenditures through an individual department's operating budget and do not include those provided for in the Capital Improvement Plan (see capital projects).
Capital Projects	Any program, project, or purchase with a useful life span of ten years and a cost of at least \$5,000; or major maintenance and repair items with a useful life span of five years.
Carryforward	Fund balances that are "carried forward" into the next fiscal year.
CDBG	Acronym for "Community Development Block Grant".
CFS	Acronym for "Calls For Service" in the Police Department.
Comprehensive Plan	A method to utilize and strengthen the existing role, processes and powers of local governments to establish and implement comprehensive planning programs which guide and control future development.
Contingency	A budgetary reserve set aside for emergency or unanticipated expenditures. The City Commission must approve all contingency expenditures.
CPG	Acronym for the "City Park Garage" parking facility.
CRA	Acronym for "Community Redevelopment Agency", a special taxing district. The City has designated two areas: Central Beach and Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights as CRA districts.
DDA	Acronym for "Downtown Development Authority", an independent special district.
Debt Proceeds	Revenue derived from the sale of bonds.
Debt Service Funds	Funds created to pay for the principal and interest of all bonds and other debt instruments according to a predetermined schedule.



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Development Review Committee (DRC)	The DRC is comprised of representatives from the Planning & Economic Development, Fire-Rescue, Police, and Public Services departments. It facilitates the review of plans for private development to ensure quality design and compatibility with existing residential and commercial development.
Direct Debt	Debt which the City has incurred in its own name or assumed through the annexation of territory or consolidation with another governmental unit.
Encumbrances	Commitments of funds for contracts and services to be performed. When encumbrances are recorded, available appropriations are correspondingly reduced.
Enterprise Funds	Funds established to account for operations which are financed and operated in a manner similar to private enterprises. The intent is that the expense of providing goods or services to the public on a continuing basis (including depreciation) be financed or recovered primarily through user fees.
EPA	Acronym for "Environmental Protection Agency".
Estimated Revenues	Projections of funds to be received during the fiscal year.
Expenditures	Cost of goods delivered or services provided, including operating expenses, capital outlays, and debt service.
FDLE	Acronym for "Florida Department of Law Enforcement".
Fiscal Year	The 12-month period to which the annual budget applies. The City's fiscal year begins on October 1 and ends September 30.
FPL	Acronym for "Florida Power and Light", a private electrical utility company that provides significant franchise fees and utility tax revenue to the City.
Franchise Fees	Fees levied by the City in return for granting a privilege which permits the continual use of public property such as city streets, and usually involves the elements of monopoly and regulation.
FTE	Acronym for "Full Time Equivalent" which refers to the number of full time employees plus all part time and seasonal employees pro-rated to full time increments.
Foreign Trade Zone	A Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) is an area that, for U.S. Customs purposes, is considered to be in international commerce. Any foreign or domestic material can be moved into an FTZ without being subject to U.S. Customs duties. An FTZ is operated as a public venture sponsored by a local municipality or authority.
Fund	A fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts recording cash and other financial resources along with all related liabilities and residual equities or balances and related changes. These accounts are segregated for the purpose of carrying on specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions, or limitations.
Fund Balance	Fund equity for governmental and trust funds which reflect the accumulated excess of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other uses for general governmental functions.
General Fund	The fund used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.



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GAAP	Acronym for “Generally Accepted Accounting Principles”.
GASB	Acronym for “Governmental Accounting Standards Board”.
GFOA	Acronym for “Government Finance Officers Association”.
GIS	Acronym for “Geographic Information System”.
GOB	Acronym for “General Obligation Bond”.
HOPWA	Acronym for “Housing Opportunities For Persons With Aids”.
Intergovernmental Revenues	Funds received from federal, state, and other local governmental sources in the form of grants, shared revenues, and payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT).
Internal Service Funds	Funds established for the financing of goods or services provided by one department to other departments within the City on a cost-reimbursement basis. Examples are the Vehicle Rental, Central Service, and City Insurance funds.
Millage Rate	One mill equals \$1.00 of tax for each \$1,000 of property value. The millage rate is the total number of mills of tax assessed against this value.
Modified Accrual Basis	The basis of accounting under which transactions are recognized when they become both measurable (i.e., an amount can be determined) and available (i.e., able to liquidate liabilities of the current period).
Non-Self-Supported Debt	Bonds for whose payment the full faith and credit of the City or a specific general revenue is pledged. This debt is payable from property taxes and other general revenue. Excise Tax Bonds are an example of this type of debt.
Overlapping Debt	The proportionate share of the debts of local governmental units located wholly or in part within the limits of the City (such as the County and School Board) which must be borne by property owners within the City.
PAVe	Acronym for “Personally Assigned Vehicle” program in the Police Department.
PILOT	Acronym for “Payment In Lieu Of Taxes”.
PM	Acronym for “Preventative Maintenance”.
PSA	Acronym for “Public Safety Aide”.
RPA	Acronym for “Requisition Purchase Order Payment Authorization”.
Revenue	Additions to assets which do not increase any liability or represent the recovery of an expenditure; do not represent the cancellation of certain liabilities or decreases in assets; and do not represent contributions of fund capital in enterprise and internal service funds.
Revised Budget	A department’s authorized budget as modified by Commission action, through appropriation transfers from contingency, or transfers from or to another department or fund.
RFP	Acronym for “Request for Proposals”.
Rollback Rate	The millage necessary to raise the same amount of ad valorem tax revenue as the previous year, excluding taxes from new construction.
Save Our Homes	State constitutional amendment that limits annual growth in homesteaded residential property value for tax purposes.



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TIF	Acronym for “Tax Increment Financing”.
User Fee	Charges for specific services provided only to those paying such charges. Examples would be sewer service charges and dock fees.
Utility Taxes	Municipal charges levied by the City on every purchase of a public service within its corporate limits, including electricity, gas, fuel oil, water, and telephone service.
Water and Sewer Master Plan	A ten-year, \$550 million Capital Improvement Program for replacement of water and sewer wastewater infrastructure.
Working Capital Reserve	The working capital reserve represents general fund resources that are for purposes of providing liquidity in the event of future adverse financial conditions.